



The countryside charity
Sussex

CPRE Sussex
Brownings Farm
Blackboys
East Sussex TN22 5HG
Telephone 01825 890975
info@cpresussex.org.uk
www.cpresussex.org.uk

09/04/21

Stars over Sussex Brighter During Lockdown

The results of a Sussex-wide Star Count during the winter Lockdown show a marked improvement in the quality of our night skies.

New figures, released by the Countryside Charity CPRE, show a 5% drop in severe light pollution and a 4% improvement in the quality of Sussex's darkest skies.

The annual Star Count was carried out by householders across Sussex in the middle of Lockdown in early February. Participants were asked to count the number of stars they could see in the constellation of Orion.

"The results show improvements in the quality of our dark skies in both urban and rural areas," says CPRE Sussex Director, Kia Trainor. "We believe this is likely to be caused by a 'lockdown effect' due to fewer large buildings in operation, fewer airplanes and quieter streets."

"Dark starry skies are not only beautiful to look at, they are also important to our health and wellbeing, and to maintaining the natural rhythms of nature such as migration."

The results of this year's Star Count show that 14% of those taking part had good quality dark skies, enabling them to see more than 20 stars in Orion. This compares to just 10% last year.

There was also an improvement in Sussex's most light polluted areas with a drop in number of people who could see less than 10 stars. Last year 53% of participants were struggling to see the stars but during the February Lockdown, this dropped to 48% which is an improvement of 5%.

CPRE has published an interactive map showing Lockdown Star Count results across the country:

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/star-count-2021/>

For more information please contact:

CPRE Sussex Director, Kia Trainor: 07964 894333

To promote, enhance and protect a thriving countryside for everyone's benefit

President: Lord Egremont

Campaign to Protect Rural England Sussex Branch CIO | Registered charity number: 1156568

Facebook : www.facebook.com/CPRESussex | Twitter : @cpresussex